



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO TAKE PROPOSED FY2013 OPERATING BUDGET TO PUBLIC HEARING

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick Board of County Commissioners yesterday agreed to send the [Proposed FY2013 Operating Budget](#) of approximately \$465 million to a public hearing which will take place at 6:00 p.m. on May 2 at Governor Thomas Johnson High School, 1501 North Market Street, Frederick, Md.

Board President Blaine Young said, “We believe the proposed budget we are now taking to the public for feedback is fiscally responsible and we appreciate the hard work of our Budget Committee, Budget Office and division directors in preparing the budget for our review.

“We are pleased to present the actual facts with regard to the budget we are entrusted to oversee on behalf of the citizens of Frederick County. This board is in no way, shape or form increasing the size of county government. The spending in the proposed budget is an attempt to rectify issues and problems that were dealt to this board when we took office on December 1, 2010. We have no interest in raising taxes and are pleased with our record of helping the citizens with such proposals as a tax rebate, the senior tax credit, reduction of permits and fees, the increase of the tax equity program for municipalities, and other business-friendly actions we have taken.

“In this budget we want to recognize the dedication and hard work of county employees for doing more with less. They understand that we have to balance the budget and they’re finding ways of saving money. That’s why we put in a merit step and a cost-of-living adjustment, as well as reinstated the reclassification process and educational benefits.

“We remain concerned about what the Maryland legislature may do with the state budget, especially with regard to local education funding. In spite of this uncertainty on the state level, we welcome input from the public as we take this proposed budget to a public hearing on May 2.

(more)

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An overview of the proposed FY2013 Operating Budget is as follows:

- Includes \$12 million to help address the current Fire Tax deficit;
- Gives \$6.7 million back to citizens in the form of a tax rebate;
- Eliminates 170 full-time employees (FTE) compared to the amount of budgeted positions in FY2011 (representing 375 less than FY2008 -- the peak in county employment):

FY2011 budgeted FTE	2,469
FY2012 budgeted FTE	2,341
FY2013 budgeted FTE	2,299

- Provides \$4.9 million for a one percent cost-of-living adjustment, merit increase and reclassification for Frederick County Government employees;
- Reinstates the municipalities tax equity by \$4 million that was taken away by the previous board;
- Shows a \$1.5 million decrease in debt service due to bond refunding opportunities acted upon by the current board;
- Includes full funding of the annual required contribution adjustment for post employment benefits, and
- Includes a \$38 million budgeted use of fund balance that was created as a result of operations in FY2011. The county is required by statute to appropriate this amount.

The Budget Office clarified that several divisions and departments were reorganized for the FY2013 budget, which may alter some comparisons between FY2013 and FY2012. Although county departmental budgets appear to have increased by \$11 million, \$8 million of that total is actually due to the consolidation of the Division of Permits and Development Review back into the General Fund, as well as support for volunteer fire companies that were previously funded in the Fire Tax districts.

Lastly, the proposed budget strengthens the county employee pension plan system by requiring employees to contribute more to the plan than in previous years.

For additional information, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/budget or contact Budget Officer Regina Howell at 301-600-3191 or via e-mail at rhowell@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

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